GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:980
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
CUTTING OF TREES ALONG NH
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of terms and rules under which order/permission/NOC has been granted to cut down very old green fruit bearing trees on both sides of the National Super Highway No.2 being constructed between Delhi and Kolkata;

(b) the parties authorised for cutting of these trees alongwith the ownership rights of the trees after their cutting;

(c) whether the said trees have been counted and variety ascertained before awarding contracts for their cutting;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether auction of the cut down trees has been done and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the time by which the same is likely to be done indicating the name of authority in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) Permission has been granted under the Forest Conservation Act 1980 and other provisions, as applicable, for felling of trees of various species for widening of the National Highway No.2. The main condition was that at least twice the number of trees felled shall be planted as compensatory afforestation.

(b) State Forest Departments are authorised for cutting of trees under their ownership in their respective States and also to dispose off the felled trees in accordance with the procedure laid down for the purpose. However, in certain stretches felling was carried out by National Highway Authority of India under the supervision of concerned State Forest Department.

(c)to(f) Yes Sir. It is an established practice that trees to be felled/auctioned are properly marked and a detailed account is maintained. Such details are not compiled at the Central Government level as these matters fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the State Governments.